

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DPW-01 SS-14 PM-09 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

/069 W

----- 037358

R 130305 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8556

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL FRANCE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

MACV

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4040

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 WEEKLY CEASEFIRE OVERVIEW, MAR. 6-12

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM NHA TRANG MAR 12

REPEATED FOR YOU INFO

QUOTE NHA TRANG 104

1. THE WEEK UNDER REVIEW WAS BY ALL MEASURES THE QUIETEST OF THE
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SIX SINCE THE CEASEFIRE WAS OFFICIALLY DECLARED. STILL, THERE WAS AN INCIDENT IN BINH THUAN WHOSE RESULTS MIGHT HAVE APPEARED IN A JGS AFTER- ACTION REPORT ON ANY DAY DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS: VC OVERRAN AN OUTPOST AT TAN DIEN HAMLET; FRIENDLY LOSSES 15 KIA, SIX WIA, EIGHT MIA, 19 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS LOST; ENEMY CASUALTIES UNKNOWN.

2. MILITARY ACTION CONTINUED-- MUCH OF IT AT GVN INITIATIVE-- IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCES OF BINH DINH AND PHU YEN ON THE COAST AND KONTUM AND PLEIKU IN THE HIGHLANDS, BUT THE SCALE WAS CONSIDERABLY REDUCED AND THE GVN APPEARED TO HAVE RESTORED, AT LEAST SUPERFICIALLY, THE " CONTROL" OVER VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE HAMLETS IT HAD LOST DURING THE ENEMY' S " CEASEFIRE HIGH- POINT." IN BUON HO DISTRICT OF DARLAC, RECONSTRUCTION WORK MOVED ALONG AND THE SITUATION WAS CONSIDERED SUFFICIENTLY IMPROVED TO PERMIT THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ONLY ARVN INFANTRY REGIMENT IN THE PROVINCE, LEAVING DARLAC' S DEFENSE IN THE HANDS OF TERRITORIAL FORCES AND PSDF.

3. PERHAPS THE MOST POSITIVE EVENT OF THE WEEK WAS THE PRISONER EXCHANGE--1,000 VC FOR 400 ARVN-- SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT MAR 10-11 IN THE BONG SON AREA OF BINH DINH AFTER CERTAIN LOCAL SNAGS WERE OVERCOME, BUT THIS ACHIEVEMENT WAS THE RESULT OF A BREAKTHROUGH IN CENTRAL FPJMC NEGOTIATIONS IN SAIGON AND OWED LITTLE IF ANYTHING TO LOCAL INITIATIVE.

4. FPJMC DEPLOYMENT IN TRUCE REGIONS 3 AND 4 HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE THE DRV ELEMENT IN BAN ME THUOT WITHDREW TO REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AT PLEIKU ON MRACH 3. THE DRV REGIONAL ELEMENT HAS STAYED IN PLEIKU BUT BOYCOTTED MEETINGS LAST WEEK BETWEEN THE US/ GVN ELEMENTS AND REGION 3 ICCS; THIS DRV ABSENCE NO DOUBT FACILITATED THE ICCS DECISION TO INSTRUCT SUB- REGIONAL TEAMS TO BEGIN INVESTIGATIONS INTO VIOLATIONS CITED BY THE GVN IN THREE PROVINCES. THESE INVESTIGATIONS ARE ONLY NOW GETTING UNDER WAY, HOWEVER, WHEREAS SOME OF THE VIOLATIONS OCCURRED ON JAN 28. (START OF THE INVESTIGATION IN BINH DINH WAS POSTPONED FOR TWO DAYS BECAUSE THE PHU CAT ICCS WITNESSED THE GVN- PRG PRISONER EXCHANGE, ALTHOUGH IT DID NOT FORMALLY PARTICIPATE.)

5. REGION 4 ICCS IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE TAKEN ANY COMPARABLE ACTION SO FAR, EVIDENTLY BECAUSE THE REGIONAL JMC IN PHAN THIET REMAINS STUCK ON THE ISSUE OF IN- PROVINCE PICK- UP POINTS FOR THE PRG
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ELEMENTS OF ITS SUB- REGIONAL TEAMS. THE ICCS TEAMS AT SUB- REGION

ARE THUS UNEMPLOYED AND QUITE LITERALLY SPEND THEIR TIME SUN-BATHING AND SHOOTING POOL. GVN PROVINCE CHIEFS IN THIS TRUCE REGION MIGHT DO WELL TO EMULATE THOSE IN KHANH HOA, PHU YEN AND BINH DINH, WHO HAVE WOODED THE ICCS WITH PICNICS, TELEVISION APPEARANCES AND GUIDED TOURS, OFTEN DESIGNED TO FORESTALL ANY SUBSEQUENT COMMUNIST CLAIMS TO CONTROL OVER TERRITORY OR POPULATION.

6. THE FIRST FLUSH OF " POPULAR FRONT" FOUNDING IS NOW PAST. LOWER- LEVEL ORGANIZATION WORK IS NOW PROCEEDING IN DISTRICTS AND VILLAGES OF SOME PROVINCES, BUT EVEN PROVINCE- LEVEL LEADERS OF THE FRONT OFTEN HAVE NO CLEAR CONCEPTION OF WHAT THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO DO NOW THAT THE MASS INAUGURALS HAVE BEEN HELD. SINCE SOME OF THESE MEN ALSO HEAD THEIR PROVINCE COUNCILS AND THE PROVINCE CHAPTERS OF THIEU' S DEMOCRACY PARTY, THEIR CONFUSION AS TO FUNCTION AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT MAY BE UNDERSTANDABLE. NOTICEABLE BY ITS ABSENCE IS VISIBLE ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF TRADITIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES; WE ASSUME MOST ARE STILL TRYING TO DECIDE HOW TO REACT TO DL 060 OR WAITING FOR THEIR SAIGON LEADERS TO INSTRUCT THEM.

7. THE MR 2 COMMANDER AND PROVINCE CHIEFS WERE MUCH OCCUPIED LAST WEEK WITH NATIONAL AND THEN REGIONAL MEETINGS. WITH THE MILITARY SITUATION NOW FAIRLY WELL STABILIZED, THEY MAY NOT FIND IT HARD TO COMPLY WITH THE REPORTED RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF AIR AND ARTILLERY, ALTHOUGH WE ARE CONVINCED THEY WILL REACT TO ANY NEW COMMUNIST INCURSIONS. SOME OF THEM WILL, AS INSTRUCTED, EMPHASIZE CIVILIAN PROGRAMS. THE PROHIBITION OF DISORDERLY DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE PEACE- KEEPING APPARATUS, IF ADHERED TO, SHOULD HELP IN THIS MR, WHERE NOT ONLY NORTHERN CATHOLIC REFUGEES BUT IN SEVERAL INSTANCES PROVINCE CHIEFS THEMSELVES WERE PLANNING SUCH ACTIONS A MONTH AGO IN PREPARATION FOR THE DRV/ PRG JMT REPS WHO HAVE NEVER YET ARRIVED.

8. JGS ORDER OF MAR 3 (SAIGON 3849) ISSUED AT THIEU' S DIRECTION APPEARS TO AUTHORIZE-- BUT NOT TO REQUIRE-- COMMUNICATION WITH ENEMY FORCES AND THUS TO REVERSE A GVN DECISION TAKEN SOME THREE WEEKS AGO. IN THEORY IT COULD LEAD TO RESUMPTION OF SOME POTENTIALLY INTERESTING EXCHANGES-

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FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE INITIATED BY VARIOUS NVA UNITS IN KONTUM WITH ELEMENTS OF ARVN 23 RD DIV DURING FIRST THREE WEEKS OF CEASE- FIRE (ALTHOUGH THE OPENING OF QL-14 MAY HAVE LESSENED GVN INTEREST IN
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DIALOGUE THERE). HOWEVER, BGEN PHA DINH NIEM OF ARVN 22 ND DIV TOLD ME JUST TODAY IN BINH DINH THAT HE IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO

COMMUNICATE WITH THE ENEMY; SUCH AUTHORITY, HE SAID,

IS RESERVED TO MGEN TOAN IN LATTER' S CAPACITY AS MR (NOT CORPS)
COMMANDER AND THUS PRINCIPAL GVN POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE
IN THE REGION. THUS IF TEXT OF ORDER WE HAVE IS
ACCURATE, NIEM HAS NOT YET RECEIVED IT OR WON' T ACKNOWLEDGE
HAVING DONE SO. NIEM, IN FACT, IS MUCH MORE CONCERNED
ABOUT HIS SUPPLY OF AMMUNITION. SIGNED ENGLE UNQUOTE
BUNKER

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MAR 12 REPEATED FOR YOU INFO QUOTE NHA TRANG 104
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